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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/624,619 | 07/24/2000 | Kiyoshi Okamoto | CANO:011 | 6384 |

7590 02/26/2003

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EXAMINER

GOODMAN, CHARLES

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3724

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The reply filed on December 6, 2002 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s):

The reply is a Request for Reconsideration in response to the last Office Action in which the Examiner took the position that the amended claim 11 was construed as being impermissible shift in the middle of prosecution. Applicant's arguments have been considered, but they are not deemed to be persuasive for the following reasons.

First, the Examiner acknowledges that the -- side edge -- may be encompassed by the originally claimed "end position of the sheet" in claim 11. However, the "detecting means" in the original claim 11 has been construed as reading on the sensor (31) which at least according to Fig. 1 is at a "right angle relative to a conveying direction of the sheet" and this sensor detects the "end position", i.e. the leading or trailing end or traverse edge, of the sheet. Moreover, this is bolstered by the fact that the "timing" aspect of the "control" is dependent upon the detected information from either sensor (93) or sensor (31) or both according to the best understanding of the disclosure by the Examiner. Thus, contrary to Applicant's argument, the "detecting means" in the original claim 11 has not been construed as being limited to sensor (93).

Second, contrary to Applicant's assertion that the Examiner did not restrict between a detecting means that detects a traverse edge versus a side edge, this is implicit with respect to original claim 16 which has been restricted and non-elected. As Applicant notes and argues, sensor (93) which detects the "side edge" is the sensor that is movable in the right angle direction relative to the conveying direction.

For the above reasons, the Examiner deems that the previous filed amendment is not fully responsive to the last Office Action on the merits. If the Applicant has any questions on this matter, the Applicant is invited to telephone the Examiner to discuss a mutual agreement on this issue. The contact information is listed below.


See 37 CFR 1.111. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles Goodman whose telephone number is (703) 308-0501. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday between 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan Shoap, can be reached on (703) 308-1082.

In lieu of mailing, it is encouraged that all formal responses be faxed to 703-872-9302. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1148.


Charles Goodman
Primary Examiner
AU 3724

cg 
February 24, 2003

CHARLES GOODMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER